IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Application of:)	
)	
GEORGE FILLEY, JAMES HEBST,)	**Examiner: SEAN T. MOTSINGER**
M. SALAHUDDIN KHAN, ROBERT)	
GOURDINE, TIMOTHY GIBSON,)	
JON SHUTTER, FRANK KOZAK)	**Group Art Unit: 2624**
)	
Serial No.: 10/665,736)	
)	**Confirmation No.: 4664**
Filing Date: September 17, 2003)	
)	
For: LOCATION-REFERENCED)	
PHOTOGRAPH REPOSITORY)	

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

APPEAL BRIEF

Dear Sir:

This Appeal Brief is submitted pursuant 37 C.F.R. § 41.37 and is filed in furtherance of

the Notice of Appeal filed January 22, 2009.

I.   Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is NAVTEQ North America, LLC (formerly Navigation Technologies Corporation), a wholly-owned, indirect subsidiary of Nokia Corporation, a publicly-traded corporation that has its headquarters in Finland.

II.   Related Appeals and Interferences

Applicant is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings.

III.   Status of Claims

Claims 1-23 and 29-75 are currently pending. Claims 24-28 and 76-78 have been canceled. Claims 1-7, 9, 12-23, 29-35, 37, 40-51, and 75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,950,198 ("Berarducci"), U.S. Patent No. 6,914,626 ("Squibbs"), U.S. Patent No. 6,943,825 ("Silvester"), and U.S. Patent No. 7,135,994 ("Kamikawa") ("the first combination"). Claims 52-58, 60, and 63-74 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Berarducci, Squibbs, Kamikawa, and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0143762 ("Boyd") ("the second combination").

Claims 8 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the first combination and U.S. Patent No. 6,977,679 ("Tretter"). Claims 10 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the first combination and U.S. Patent No. 7,100,190 ("Johnson"). Claims 11 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the first combination and U.S. Patent No. 6,965,828 ("Pollard").

Claim 59 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the second combination and Tretter. Claim 61 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the second combination and Johnson. Claim 62 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the second combination and Pollard.

Claims 1-23 and 29-75 are appealed.

IV.   Status of Amendments

No amendments were filed subsequent to the final rejection mailed October 23, 2008.

V.   Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Applicants' claims relate to storing digital photographs in a repository that can be searched. Users can search the repository for photographs stored by others, select a photograph, and receive route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected photograph. Claims 1, 29, and 52 are independent claims. Claims 2-23, 30-51, and 53-75 are dependent claims.

Claim 1 is directed towards a method of storing photographs. The method includes providing a data repository on a network accessible to a plurality of users who have digital photographs. (Page 3, line 5 to page 4, line 8; Figure 1.) The digital photographs are comprised of data files in a suitable format. (Page 3, lines 6-8.)

The method further includes receiving digital photographs from the users over the network (page 4, line 28 to page 5, line 1; Figure 2, reference no. 156) and storing the digital photographs in the data repository (page 6, lines 20-24; Figure 2, reference no. 162). When storing each digital photograph in the data repository, each digital photograph is associated with

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data that indicate a physical location. (Page 5, lines 1-26; Figure 2, reference nos. 158, 162; Figure 3.)

The method further includes providing a search function available to the users over the network that enables users to search by proximity to a street address for digital photographs stored by other users. (Page 7, lines 21-29; page 8, lines 7-15; Figure 4, reference no. 182.) The search function uses a geographic database to identify digital photographs in proximity to the specified street address. (Page 8, lines 23-25; Figure 4, reference no. 164.) The method further includes allowing users to select digital photographs stored by other users (page 7, lines 25-29) and providing the users with route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs (page 14, lines 4-9).

Claim 29 is directed towards a method of storing photographs. The method includes providing a data repository on a network accessible to a plurality of users who have digital photographs. (Page 3, line 5 to page 4, line 8; Figure 1.) The digital photographs are comprised of data files in a suitable format. (Page 3, lines 6-8.)

The method further includes receiving digital photographs from the users over the network (page 4, line 28 to page 5, line 1; Figure 2, reference no. 156) and storing the digital photographs in the data repository (page 6, lines 20-24; Figure 2, reference no. 162). When storing each digital photograph in the data repository, each digital photograph is associated with data that indicate a physical location. (Page 5, lines 1-26; Figure 2, reference nos. 158, 162; Figure 3.) Data received from a user indicating the physical location associated with a digital photograph is transformed by an acceptance application associated with the data repository into an alternative format. (Page 7, lines 3-7.)

The method further includes providing a search function available to the users over the network that enables users to search by physical location for digital photographs stored by other users. (Page 7, lines 21-29; page 8, lines 7-15; Figure 4, reference no. 182.) The method further includes allowing users to select digital photographs stored by other users (page 7, lines 25-29) and providing the users with route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs (page 14, lines 4-9).

Claim 52 is directed towards a method of storing photographs. The method includes providing a data repository on a network accessible to a plurality of users who have digital photographs. (Page 3, line 5 to page 4, line 8; Figure 1.) The digital photographs are comprised of data files in a suitable format. (Page 3, lines 6-8.)

The method further includes receiving digital photographs and locations to be associated therewith from the users over the network (page 4, line 28 to page 5, line 26; Figure 2, reference nos. 156, 158) and geocoding the locations (page 7, lines 6-11). The method further includes storing the digital photographs and the associated geocoded locations in the data repository. (Page 7, lines 6-17.)

The method further includes providing a search function available to the users over the network that enables users to search by physical location for digital photographs stored by other users. (Page 7, lines 21-29; page 8, lines 7-15; Figure 4, reference no. 182.) The method further includes allowing users to select digital photographs stored by other users (page 7, lines 25-29) and providing the users with route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs (page 14, lines 4-9).

VI.   Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

At issue is whether Applicants' claims 1-23 and 29-75 are obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). In particular, at issue is whether claims 1-7, 9, 12-23, 29-35, 37, 40-51, and 75 are obvious in view of the first combination; claims 52-58, 60, and 63-74 are obvious in view of the second combination; claims 8 and 36 are obvious in view of the first combination and Tretter; claims 10 and 38 are obvious in view of the first combination and Johnson; claims 11 and 39 are obvious in view of the first combination and Pollard; claim 59 is obvious in view of the second combination and Tretter; claim 61 is obvious in view of the second combination and Johnson; and claim 62 is obvious in view of the second combination and Pollard.

VII.   Argument

Claims 1-23 and 29-75 were rejected as being obvious in view of a combination of either four or five patent references. Of these references, only one – Kamikawa – has been cited for the teaching of providing route guidance. However, Kamikawa does not teach the claimed route guidance. Specifically, Kamikawa does not teach "providing the users with route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs" as found in claims 1-23 and 29-75.

> **1.   The Examiner Erred in Rejecting Claims 1-23 and 29-51 as Being Obvious in view of Berarducci, Squibbs, Silvester, and Kamikawa**

In claims 1 and 29, Applicants recite a method of storing photographs. The methods include providing a data repository on a network, receiving digital photographs from users over the network, and storing the digital photographs in the data repository. The methods further

include providing a search function that enables the users to search for digital photographs stored by other users, allowing users to select digital photographs stored by other users, and providing the users with route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs.

As described in Applicants' Specification,

> [T]he photo repository service may also provide navigation-related or map-related features. These navigation-related or map-related features may pertain to the locations of photographs. As an example, when a user obtains a photograph from the photo repository service, the user may be provided with routing directions (e.g., turn-by-turn driving instructions, pedestrian, inter-modal) to the location associated with the photograph.

(Applicants' Specification, page 14, lines 4-9.)

None of Berarducci, Squibbs, Silvester, and Kamikawa show or suggest at least the claim element of "*providing the users with route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs.*" The Examiner cites to Kamikawa for this claim element. (Office Action mailed October 23, 2008, pages 5, 14.) Applicants agree with the Examiner that Berarducci, Squibbs, and Silvester do not show or suggest this element as none of these references discuss a navigation system or other system that may be used to provide route guidance. Applicants also believe that Kamikawa does not show or suggest this claim element.

Kamikawa describes an image display apparatus. (See, e.g., Kamikawa, Title.) The image display apparatus has "a first display control unit for displaying a map image on a display panel on the basis of map data" and "a second display control unit for displaying real images of facilities such as ballparks, which images have the same scale of that of the map image." (Kamikawa, Abstract.) A navigation system may include Kamikawa's image display apparatus. (See, e.g., Kamikawa, col. 6, line 67 to col. 7, line 3, and Figure 1.)

Kamikawa describes the navigation system's display process as:

1. Determine current vehicle position using, for example, GPS;
2. Display map image of the periphery of the current vehicle position;
3. Determine whether a facility image is available, and if so;
4. Display the real image on the map image.

(See, e.g., Kamikawa, col. 8, lines 19-45, and Figure 5.) An example of Kamikawa's display is
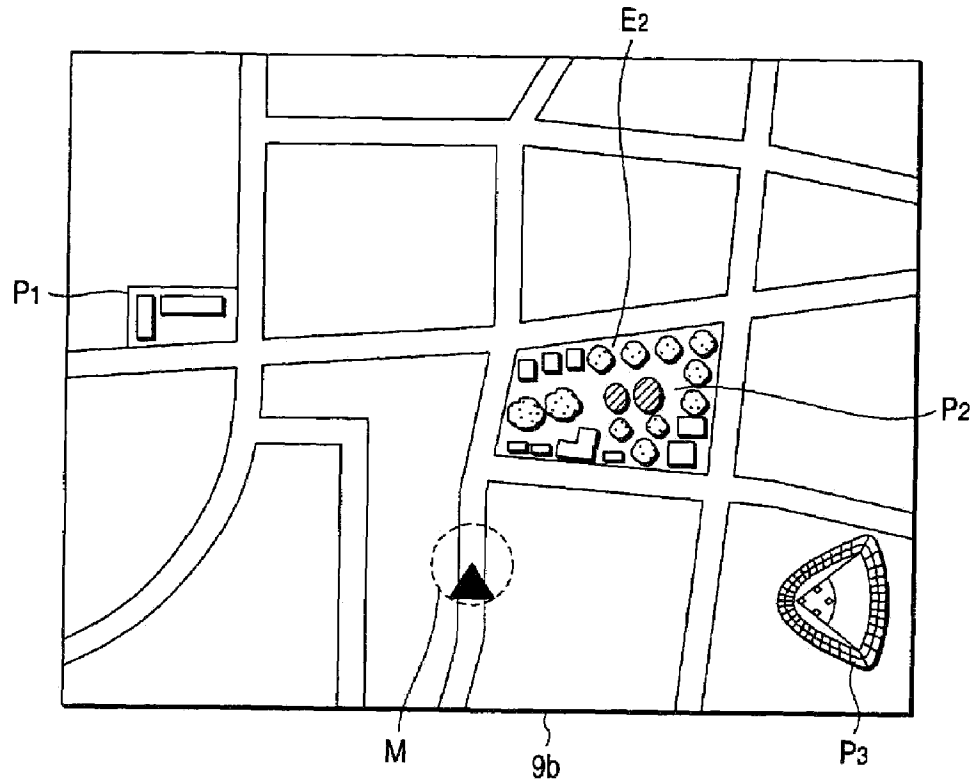
shown as follows. (Kamikawa, Figure 6.)

FIG. 6 is a view showing a state where real images of facilities such as a school
and so on are displayed on the map image displayed on the display panel 9b. In
FIG. 6, a reference sign M designates a position mark of the vehicle, and reference
signs P_1 to P_3 designate real images of a school, a park and a ballpark,
respectively.

(Kamikawa, col. 8, lines 46-52)

The Examiner stated that "Kamikawa discloses providing rout [sic] guidance for a

selected image (column 7 lines 60-67 and column 8 lines 1-10) the image being selected by the

users [sic] current position." (Office Action mailed October 23, 2008, page 2.) However, this

statement is insufficient as the claims require providing route guidance (1) for traveling to

locations (2) shown in the selected digital photographs. Providing route guidance for traveling to

a user's current position is nonsensical. A user located at his current position does not need route

guidance for traveling to his current position – he is already there. Moreover, no traveling is

necessary to get to his current position.

Further, the user did not select the images used in the display. Instead, Kamikawa

describes that the navigation system determines whether a facility image is available based on the

displayed map image, and if so, displays the facility image on the map image. (See, e.g.,

Kamikawa, col. 8, lines 30-32.) Thus, the Examiner's statement itself demonstrates that

Kamikawa does not show or suggest *"providing the users with route guidance for traveling to*

locations shown in the selected digital photographs" as claimed.

The Examiner cites to Kamikawa column 7, lines 60-67 and column 8, lines 1-10, which

is included in the following passage.

> In addition, FIG. 4 shows that the location coordinates of the facility A are (x_{10}, y_{10}), and the location coordinates of the facility B are (x_{20}, y_{20}).

> In addition, the microcomputer 1 performs map matching processing for matching the obtained current position of the vehicle with the map data (real image data) so that a map image (real image) showing the current position of the vehicle accurately can be displayed on a display panel 9b.

> In addition, a switch signal output from a joystick 8a or a button switch 8b provided in a remote controller 8, or a switch signal output from a button switch 9a provided in a display unit 9 is supplied to the microcomputer 1. The microcomputer 1 performs processing in accordance with such a switch signal. For example, when the microcomputer 1 acquires information of a destination or a way point from one of these switches, the microcomputer 1 obtains an optimal route from the current position (place of departure) of the vehicle to the destination via the way point, and displays the optimal route as a navigation route on the display panel 9b together with the map image.

(Kamikawa, col. 7, line 59 to col. 8, line 12.) In this passage, Kamikawa describes map matching, destination selection, route calculation, and map display – all common functions of a navigation system.

Map matching is used to place an identifier associated with the vehicle's current position on the map image (e.g., the reference sign M designating a position mark in Kamikawa's Figure 6). This process takes into account errors in the map data and the vehicle position data (e.g., GPS data), and determines the most likely location on the map image to place the vehicle identifier.

Destination selection is also a common process in navigation systems. The user of a navigation system uses input mechanisms, such as Kamikawa's joystick and button switches, to enter a destination. Based on the vehicle's current position and the entered destination, the navigation system performs route calculation. The results of the route calculation are used to provide a display that shows the calculated route on the map image.

Kamikawa's description of these common navigation system features does not teach or suggest the claimed route guidance. Kamikawa is concerned with improvements to the map display function. "It is an object of the invention to provide image display apparatus particularly adopted in a navigation system and using appropriately both the display of a real image such as an aerial photograph image and the display of a map image made up using map data, so that the satisfaction level of a user can be enhanced." (Kamikawa, col. 1, line 65 to col. 2, line 3.) Accordingly, Kamikawa describes the map display function in detail. In contrast, because the route guidance function is not the object of Kamikawa's invention, only the details quoted above are provided regarding route guidance.

As described above, none of Berarducci, Squibbs, Silvester, and Kamikawa show or suggest the claim element of *"providing the users with route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs."* While the prior art references need not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, the Examiner must explain why the difference between the prior art and the claimed invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. MPEP § 2141. For claims 1 and 29, the Examiner provided the rationale that:

> It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of the invention to include the route guidance of Kamikawa with the digital photographs of Berarducci and Squibbs for the benefit of using actual buildings as landmarks as taught by Kamikawa in column 1.

(Office Action mailed October 23, 2008, pages 5 and 14.)

Kamikawa column 1 describes that a user will have a better grasp of his current position if a navigation system displays both aerial photograph images and map images. The only reference to "landmarks" in Kamikawa's column 1 is in a discussion of the prior art that teaches displaying a navigation system's current position on aerial photographs. "With such an aerial photograph image, it becomes very easy to see a building or the like as a landmark." (Kamikawa, col. 1, lines 37-39.) Thus, the Examiner's rationale does not explain why one skilled in the art would read a reference that describes an improved image display apparatus and find it obvious to provide route guidance for traveling to locations shown in user-selected digital photographs.

Moreover, the Examiner's statement implies that combining "the route guidance of Kamikawa with the digital photographs of Berarducci and Squibbs" would result in the claimed invention. However, the combination results in the digital photographs of Berarducci and Squibbs being used in Kamikawa's image display apparatus. For example, a digital photograph of a ballpark may be located at P_3 shown in Kamikawa's Figure 6.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 1 and 29 are not obvious in view of the combination of Berarducci, Squibbs, Silvester, and Kamikawa because none of these references show or suggest an element of these claims and the Examiner failed to clearly articulate why the claimed invention would have been obvious despite the lack of teaching of all claim elements. Thus, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1 and 29 should be reversed.

Claims 2-23 and 75 depend from claim 1. Claims 30-51 depend from claim 29. If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988), MPEP § 2143.03. The Examiner cited to Tretter, Johnson, and Pollard for teachings other than providing route guidance. (Office Action mailed October 23, 2008, pages 10-11 and 18-20.) Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 2-23, 30-51, and 75 are nonobvious for at least the reason that claims 1 and 29 are nonobvious.

2. The Examiner Erred in Rejecting Claim 52-74 as Being Obvious in view of Berarducci, Squibbs, Kamikawa, and Boyd

Like claims 1 and 29, in claim 52, Applicants recite a method of storing photographs. The method includes providing a data repository on a network, receiving digital photographs from users over the network, and storing the digital photographs in the data repository. The method further includes providing a search function that enables the users to search for digital photographs stored by other users, allowing users to select digital photographs stored by other users, and providing the users with route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs.

As described with reference to claims 1 and 29, none of Berarducci, Squibbs, and Kamikawa show or suggest at least the claim element of "*providing the users with route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs.*" The Examiner cited to Boyd for the teaching of "relating geographic coordinates to named addresses or other map features." (Office Action mailed October 23, 2008, page 22.) However, this teaching does not overcome the deficiencies previously described with reference to Berarducci, Squibbs, and Kamikawa. The Examiner provided the same obviousness rationale as described with reference to claims 1 and 29, to reject claim 52. Because none of Berarducci, Squibbs, Kamikawa, and Boyd show or suggest "*providing the users with route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs*" as claimed and the Examiner failed to clearly articulate why the claimed invention would have been obvious despite the lack of teaching of all claim elements, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 52 should be reversed.

Claims 53-74 depend from claim 52. If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988), MPEP § 2143.03. The Examiner cited to Tretter, Johnson, and Pollard for teachings other than providing route guidance. (Office Action mailed October 23, 2008, pages 27-28.) Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 53-74 are nonobvious for at least the reason that claim 52 is nonobvious.

VIII. Conclusion

Applicants have demonstrated that the rejections are in error as a matter of law.

Applicants therefore request reversal of the rejections and allowance of all pending claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 10, 2009

By: /Lisa M. Schoedel/
Lisa M. Schoedel
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Patent Counsel

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1.   (previously presented) A method of storing photographs comprising:

providing a data repository on a network accessible to a plurality of users who have digital photographs, wherein the digital photographs are comprised of data files in a suitable format;

receiving digital photographs from the users over the network;

storing the digital photographs in the data repository;

when storing each digital photograph in the data repository, associating each digital photograph with data that indicate a physical location;

providing a search function available to the users over the network that enables users to search by proximity to a street address for digital photographs stored by other users, wherein the search function uses a geographic database to identify digital photographs in proximity to the specified street address;

allowing users to select digital photographs stored by other users; and

providing the users with route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs.

2.   (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data indicates an orientation.

3.   (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data restrict which other users may obtain a copy of the digital photograph.

4.   (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data indicate an owner of the digital photograph.

5.   (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data indicate a date on which the digital photograph was taken.

6.   (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data indicate a date on which the digital photograph was deposited in the data repository.

7.   (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data provide a description of the digital photograph.

8.   (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data include a focal length used for the digital photograph.

9.   (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

for some of the selected digital photographs transmitted to users, charging the users a fee for the selected digital photographs.

10.   (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

storing links to web cams in the data repository;

when storing each link to a web cam in the data repository, associating each link to a web cam with data that indicate a physical location, wherein the physical location indicates where the web cam associated with the link is located;

providing a search function available to the users over the network that enables users to search by physical location for web cam links stored by other users;

allowing users to select links to web cams of other users; and

transmitting the respective selected web cam links to the users who selected them over the network.

11.   (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the physical location associated with the digital photograph indicates a vantage point of the digital photograph.

12.   (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the physical location associated with the digital photograph indicates the location of an object in the digital photograph.

13.   (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the data that indicate a physical location is obtained, for at least some of the digital photographs, from positioning equipment associated with the camera that took the photograph.

14.   (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the data that indicate a physical location is obtained from the user from whom the associated digital photograph was received.

15.   (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

when receiving digital photographs from users, requesting each user to indicate the physical location to be associated with the digital photograph.

16.   (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

making the data repository accessible to a map developer; and

allowing the map developer to update maps using the digital photographs stored in the data repository.

17.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

transmitting copies of the selected digital photographs to the users who selected them over the network.

18.   (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs received from users, allowing the users to associate a plurality of digital photographs as a related group.

19.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the search function allows a user to specify a street address by distance from a reference point.

20.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the search function allows a user to specify a street address by a bounding area.

21.   (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

establishing groups of users, wherein each group comprises a subset of all users; and

restricting exchange of digital photographs stored in the data repository by members of a group to only members of the group.

22.   (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the search function supports free text searches.

23.   (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the data repository automatically recognizes potential placenames when users enter text to be associated with digital photographs being stored.

24-28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) A method of storing photographs comprising:

providing a data repository on a network accessible to a plurality of users who have digital photographs, wherein the digital photographs are comprised of data files in a suitable format;

receiving digital photographs from the users over the network;

storing the digital photographs in the data repository;

when storing each digital photograph in the data repository, associating each digital photograph with data that indicate a physical location, wherein data received from a user indicating the physical location associated with a digital photograph is transformed by an acceptance application associated with the data repository into an alternative format;

providing a search function available to the users over the network that enables users to search by physical location for digital photographs stored by other users;

allowing users to select digital photographs stored by other users; and

providing the users with route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs.

30. (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data indicates an orientation.

31. (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data restrict which other users may obtain a copy of the digital photograph.

32. (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data indicate an owner of the digital photograph.

33. (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data indicate a date on which the digital photograph was taken.

34. (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data indicate a date on which the digital photograph was deposited in the data repository.

35. (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data provide a description of the digital photograph.

36. (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data include a focal length used for the digital photograph.

37. (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 further comprising:

for some of the selected digital photographs transmitted to users, charging the users a fee for the selected digital photographs.

38. (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 further comprising:

storing links to web cams in the data repository;

when storing each link to a web cam in the data repository, associating each link to a web cam with data that indicate a physical location, wherein the physical location indicates where the web cam associated with the link is located;

providing a search function available to the users over the network that enables users to search by physical location for web cam links stored by other users;

allowing users to select links to web cams of other users; and

transmitting the respective selected web cam links to the users who selected them over the network.

39. (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 wherein the physical location associated with the digital photograph indicates a vantage point of the digital photograph.

40. (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 wherein the physical location associated with the digital photograph indicates the location of an object in the digital photograph.

41. (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 wherein the data that indicate a physical location is obtained, for at least some of the digital photographs, from positioning equipment associated with the camera that took the photograph.

42. (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 wherein the data that indicate a physical location is obtained from the user from whom the associated digital photograph was received.

43. (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 further comprising:

when receiving digital photographs from users, requesting each user to indicate the physical location to be associated with the digital photograph.

44.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 further comprising:

making the data repository accessible to a map developer; and

allowing the map developer to update maps using the digital photographs stored in the data repository.

45.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 further comprising:

transmitting copies of the selected digital photographs to the users who selected them over the network.

46.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs received from users, allowing the users to associate a plurality of digital photographs as a related group.

47.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 wherein the search function allows a user to specify a physical location by distance from a reference point.

48.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 wherein the search function allows a user to specify a physical location by a bounding area.

49.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 further comprising:

establishing groups of users, wherein each group comprises a subset of all users; and

restricting exchange of digital photographs stored in the data repository by members of a group to only members of the group.

50.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 wherein the search function supports free text searches.

51.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 29 wherein the data repository automatically recognizes potential placenames when users enter text to be associated with digital photographs being stored.

52.   (previously presented) A method of storing photographs comprising:

providing a data repository on a network accessible to a plurality of users who have digital photographs, wherein the digital photographs are comprised of data files in a suitable format;

receiving digital photographs and locations to be associated therewith from the users over the network;

geocoding the locations;

storing the digital photographs and the associated geocoded locations in the data repository;

providing a search function available to the users over the network that enables users to search by physical location for digital photographs stored by other users;

allowing users to select digital photographs stored by other users; and

providing the users with route guidance for traveling to locations shown in the selected digital photographs.

53.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data indicates an orientation.

54.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data restrict which other users may obtain a copy of the digital photograph.

55.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data indicate an owner of the digital photograph.

56.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data indicate a date on which the digital photograph was taken.

57.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data indicate a date on which the digital photograph was deposited in the data repository.

58.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data provide a description of the digital photograph.

59.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs stored in the data repository, associating additional data with the digital photograph and storing the additional data in the data repository, wherein the additional data include a focal length used for the digital photograph.

60.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 further comprising:

for some of the selected digital photographs transmitted to users, charging the users a fee for the selected digital photographs.

61.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 further comprising:

storing links to web cams in the data repository;

when storing each link to a web cam in the data repository, associating each link to a web cam with data that indicate a physical location, wherein the physical location indicates where the web cam associated with the link is located;

providing a search function available to the users over the network that enables users to search by physical location for web cam links stored by other users;

allowing users to select links to web cams of other users; and

transmitting the respective selected web cam links to the users who selected them over the network.

62.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 wherein the physical location associated with the digital photograph indicates a vantage point of the digital photograph.

63.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 wherein the physical location associated with the digital photograph indicates the location of an object in the digital photograph.

64.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 wherein the data that indicate a physical location is obtained, for at least some of the digital photographs, from positioning equipment associated with the camera that took the photograph.

65.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 wherein the data that indicate a physical location is obtained from the user from whom the associated digital photograph was received.

66.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 further comprising:

when receiving digital photographs from users, requesting each user to indicate the physical location to be associated with the digital photograph.

67. (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 further comprising:

making the data repository accessible to a map developer; and

allowing the map developer to update maps using the digital photographs stored in the data repository.

68. (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 further comprising:

transmitting copies of the selected digital photographs to the users who selected them over the network.

69. (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 further comprising:

for some of the digital photographs received from users, allowing the users to associate a plurality of digital photographs as a related group.

70. (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 wherein the search function allows a user to specify a physical location by distance from a reference point.

71. (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 wherein the search function allows a user to specify a physical location by a bounding area.

72. (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 further comprising:

establishing groups of users, wherein each group comprises a subset of all users; and

restricting exchange of digital photographs stored in the data repository by members of a group to only members of the group.

73. (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 wherein the search function supports free text searches.

74. (previously presented) The method of Claim 52 wherein the data repository automatically recognizes potential placenames when users enter text to be associated with digital photographs being stored.

75.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
geocoding the specified street address.

76-78. (canceled)

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.